November/December, 1984

Lasca Leaves

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

ARBORETUM AND INTERNS GAIN FROM SUMMER WORK PROGRAM

All 12 interns serving at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum agreed that they benefited greatly from their three-month experience. "It helped me in several ways," said Thomas Fry, a student at Cal State Fullerton. "I learned new job skills and the supervisory experience will definitely be useful. Also, I've met a lot of new people, not just new but likeable people," he added.

The internships, sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation, were established as a training program for students in the gardening and horticulture field, according to Arboretum superintendent, John Provine. "They also help us with our various projects," he added. "So it's a two-way street."

Six projects to be exact, the toughest of which took several weeks during the heat of midsummer in the Meadowbrook area. To prepare the area for renovation, the interns removed all the perennials including the iris and amaryllis collections. Then they donned masks and fumigated the soil with methyl bromide

Lu Ann B. Munns

John Provine, Arboretum superintendent, (far right) discusses the groundcover plots with the 1984 interns. They are (from left) Jay Maddox, Lorraine White, Susan Takahashi, Joseph Rose, Susan Sothern, Julie Glover, Claire Moody, Nannette Bhaumik, James McManamon, Pamela Biele, and Karin Machleder.

to kill unwanted grasses, weeds and diseases. After tilling the sterilized soil, they labeled, cleaned and replanted the perennials.

Another project that took an exceptional amount of time was the removal of the coyote bush along the road between the fountains and the Prehistoric Jungle Garden. Rosemary may be planted where the interns cleared the overgrown brush.

A new sprinkler system was also installed in the rose garden, and the groundcover displays behind the library were reworked. That entailed clearing the area, fumigating the soil, replacing the header boards that divide the plots and replanting the displays.

Each intern worked two days a week with herbarium curator, Suzanne Granger, in the Herbarium and in the field collecting plant specimens and later identifying them through literature in the Library. The specimens were then prepared for the Herbarium.

Ms. Granger said that during mapping they helped find and mark difficult quadrat monuments in the field, especially in areas such as hillsides that the volunteers found troublesome. Ms. Granger had only praise for the 1984 students. "They are very good. It seems that the students get better and better each year," she said. "They catch on quickly and seem to enjoy it."

Susan Sothern, a Cal Poly Pomona student, had definite ideas about her summer at the Arboretum, "Aside from being $1,000 richer, I learned a lot of things that they never get around to teaching you in the classroom. There's nothing like on-the-job training. I want to be a landscape contractor and eventually go into management, and that is what the Arboretum is all about."

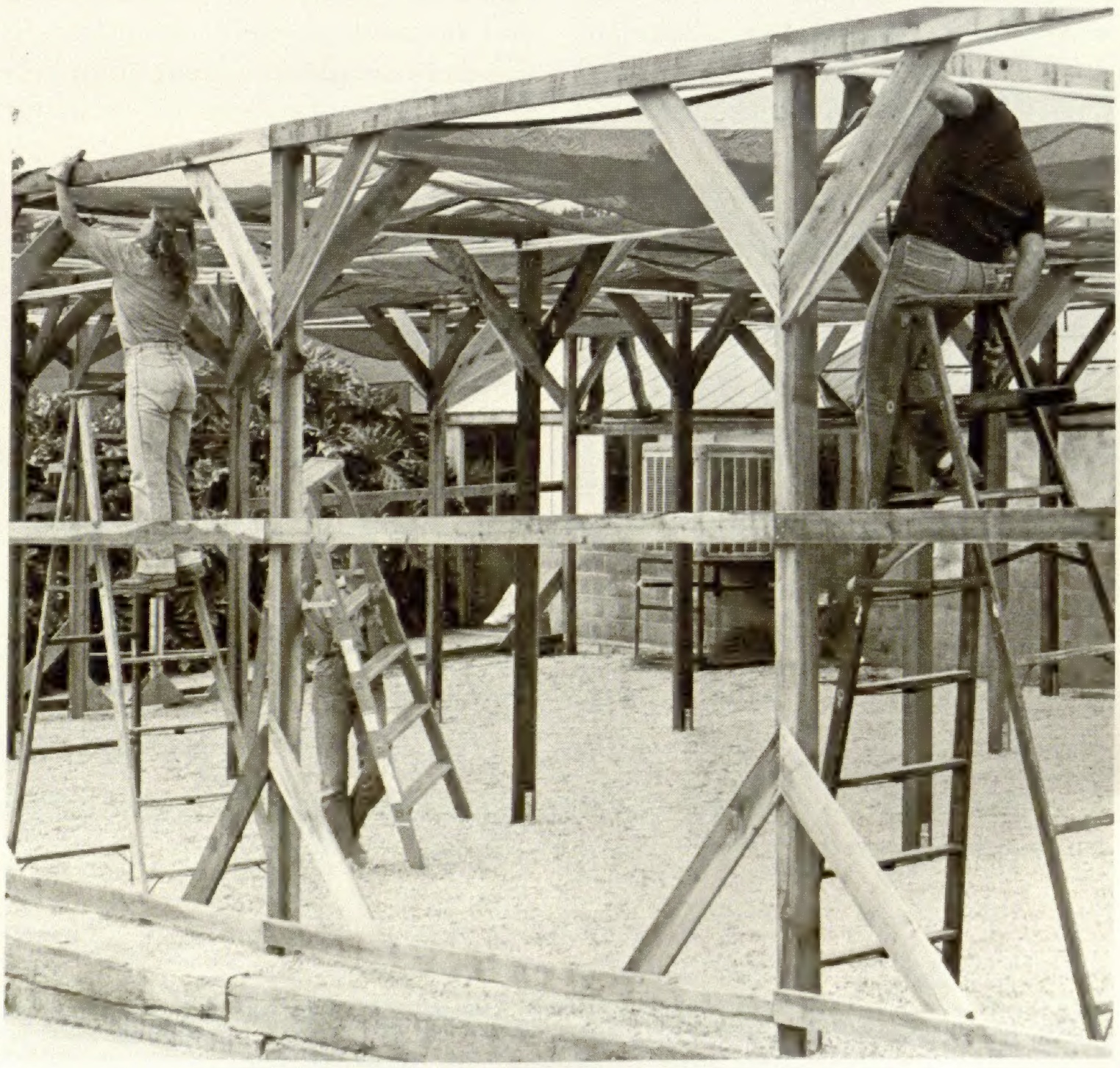
Jim McManamon, Humboldt State U., thought that being able to work with his hands was the best experience he could get. "Working with plantlife, when added to my earlier experience in wildlife management, will be a real plus," he said. "If you want experience in the horticultural field, then this is 'theee' place."

Joseph Rose from Ventura College found a veritable gold mine here. "I've got four jobs I start next month because of my internship here. This experience really helped and so have the supervisors. I've had jobs before where the supervisors expected us to already know how to do the job . This place was different, the atmosphere was friendly."

However, the experience did not prove to be everyone's cup of tea, as Susan Takahashi, a student at U.C. Davis, found out. "All that I've done before was office work and I found a different work environment here. I now realize that plant science isn't my field."

Thanks to the California Arboretum Foundation, the Arboretum intern program is a success that benefits everyone, both the Arboretum and the students.

This year's class of interns are all Californians being educated at an assortment of farflung colleges: Nannette Bhaumik of Ontario attends Cal Poly Pomona; Pamela Biele of Arcata attends Humboldt State U.; Thomas Fry of Arcadia attends Cal State Fullerton; Julie Glover of Arcadia attends Cal Poly Pomona; Karin Machleder of Los Angeles attends Antioch College - Yellow Springs, Ohio; Jay Maddox of Claremont attends Pomona College; Jim McManamon of Arcata attends Humboldt State U.; Claire Moody of Panorama City attends Iowa State U.; Joseph Rose of Covina attends Ventura College; Susan Sothern of Covina attends Cal Poly Pomona; Susan Takahashi of Torrance attends U.C. Davis; and Lorraine White attends Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.



Lu Ann B. Munns

The interns attach polypropylene cloth to the new shade house being built to house the Arboretum's collection of outdoor orchids.

WOMEN ARTISTS SHOW GLIMPSE OF OLD WEST AT ARBORETUM

THE SOUND of tribal drums got louder with each step past the entrance of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Finally a teepee could be seen in the distance, then two. Suddenly, members of the California Arboretum Foundation, their families and friends found themselves in the midst of a miniature Indian village. As trappers and mountainmen bartered with the elders, members of the Sioux and Yaqui tribes performed ancient traditional dances celebrating peace, good crops and . . . war, all to the delight of about 700 visitors who attended a preview party given by the painters and sculptors who comprise the Women Artists of the American West. The party premiered a successful three-week exhibit of Western art that began July 27 in Ayres Hall of Environmental Education.

An international group of women artists who specialize in scenes from the Old West formed WAOAW 11 years ago. Among the 35 members displaying their works at the Arboretum was Irish McCalla, known to TV viewers in the 1950s as "Sheena of the Jungle" and now an artist of considerable renown.

During the celebration a number of luminaries were honored with medallions created especially for the show by Gloria Bilotta, founder of WAOAW. Among those who received medallions from show chairman, Lois Rumohr, and actress Dody Goodman were the present mayor of Arcadia, David Hannah, and former mayor Dennis Lojeski as well as the rest of the Arcadia City Council. Arboretum superintendent, John Provine, was also honored as was a representative of California Secretary of State March Fong Eu.

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A photographer decides whether to concentrate on the village or the colorful characters at the WAOAW show.

William Aplin

Looking as if they just stepped out of one of the paintings, mountain men and an Indian maiden add another dimension to the show of Western art.

William Aplin

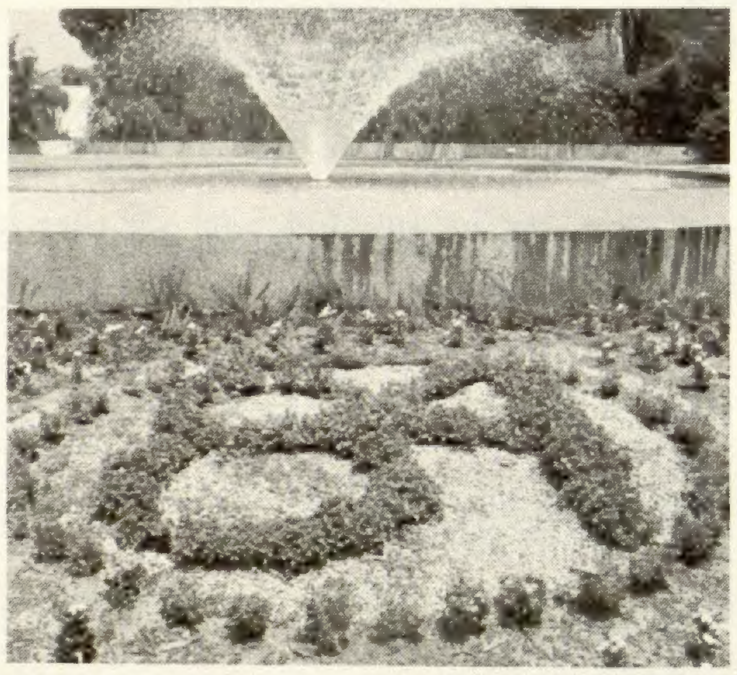
Arboretum's Role in the Los Angeles Olympics

THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT of humanism that replaced smog and traffic for two weeks last summer penetrated to all corners of the Los Angeles area, including the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Although unmanageable hordes of visitors never materialized, a nice representation of international gardening enthusiasts did visit the Arboretum grounds to enjoy the wide array of plants for which the Arboretum is noted.

One very tall bird created a lot of patriotic excitement during two surprise visits arranged by William Wakeman, son of Arboretum executive assistant, Lee Wakeman. When Sam the Eagle, wearing a striped top hat and a friendly grin, walked around the Arboretum in mid-August, fans of all ages flocked to shake his wing and be photographed with him.

Plants from the Arboretum also had a part in Olympic festivities, even though it was outside the gardens. When Shav Glick from the Los Angeles Times wrote that the Olympic jumping course at Santa Anita Park looked "like an extension of the county arboretum across the street," he was more accurate than he may have guessed. Many of the beautiful plants that bordered the gates and walls were, in fact, on loan from the Arboretum.

The Australian Consulate also borrowed many Australian natives including eucalyptus, kangaroo paws and acacias to decorate the gardens of the residence of Consul General Basil Teasey in Holmby Hills during Olympic functions in August.



Arboretum eucalyptus trees frame Australian Consul General Basil Teasey and Mrs. Teasey as they welcome guests to an Olympics party.

Sam the Eagle, the Olympic mascot, leads a parade of his fans around the Bauer Pool during his surprise visit to the Arboretum. (Photos by LuAnn Munns)

(LASCA continues after page 32)

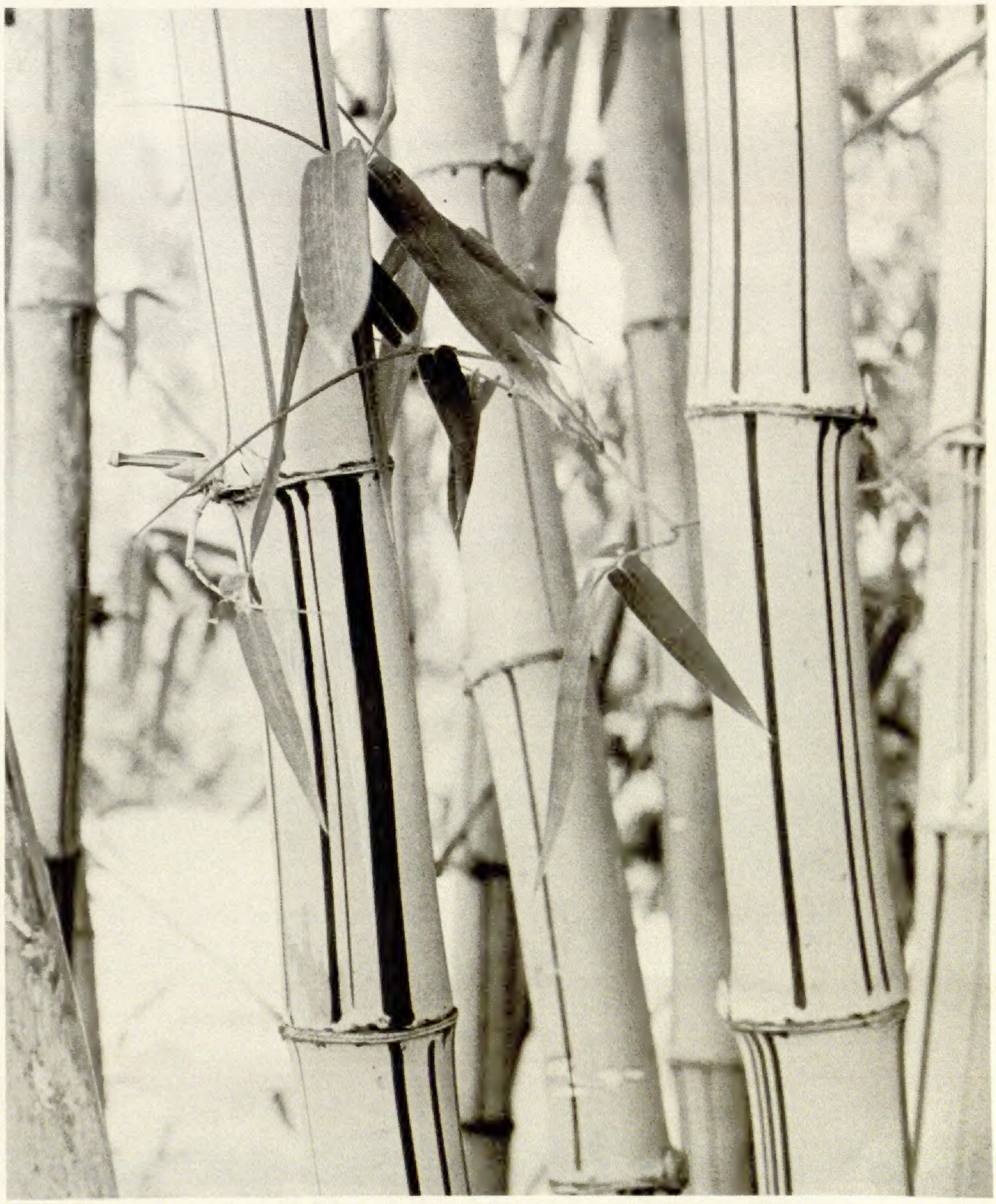
By James Bauml

Two Special Bamboos

Among the 25 different types of bamboo curently growing on the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum grounds are two of special interest which deserve to be featured at this time.

The first of these two bamboos is the green and yellow form *Bambusa vulgaris* cv. Vittata. Throughout tropical and subtropical regions, the more common green form is perhaps the most widely grown of the clump-forming bamboos. No one really knows its original homeland. It is grown for ornament as well as for its strong culms and for its high-quality fibers which are used in paper-making. Conveniently, it is noted for its rapid recovery following heavy harvests of the canes. Both the green and striped forms of *B. vulgaris* may grow to 50 or 60 feet in height with culms to 4-5 inches in diameter. These often zig-zag or bend toward the base. The leaves are 6-9 inches long and usually ¾ to 1¼ inches wide. It is reported that this relatively tender bamboo may suffer foliar injury at 30° F. and cane injury at 27-28°.

The typical green form is known to give rise to all yellow or yellow and green mutations, of which 'Vittata' is one. This selection is a particularly handsome bamboo with



The uneven stripes on Bambusa vulgaris *cv. Vittata often look like green brushstrokes on the golden yellow canes.*

A recent pruning exposes the green stripes on the 30-foot mature canes of this Bambusa vulgaris *cv. Vittata near LASCA Lagoon.*

golden yellow culms variously striped and paneled with deep green. Another sort of mutation has produced the cultivar 'Wamin' which is characterized by shortened, inflated culm segments or nodes. At present the all-yellow form and 'Wamin' are not cultivated in the United States.

In regions with mild climates, *B. vulgaris* cv. Vittata is easy to grow in full sun with rich, moist, well-drained soil. As with most bamboos, scales, mealy bugs or aphids can sometimes be a problem, but controls are easily obtainable. This species is relatively easy to propagate. Divisions of the clump, cane cuttings, or branch cuttings may be used in summer for propagation just before the onset of new growth.

The second bamboo featured here is truly one of nature's curiosities. It is the square bamboo *(Chimonobambusa quadrangularis)*, native to China, but long cultivated in Japan.

Although actually squarish rather than square, it is easy to see and appreciate the angular nature of the mature culms. As if this feature alone were not diagnostic, this bamboo is also notable for the short spine-like dried aerial roots that project from the culm joints or nodes in the lower half of each cane. Also, the surface of lower and middle internodes is roughened with tiny projections. As you might imagine, these canes are valued for fancy walking sticks and umbrella handles.

The square bamboo is one of the species in the genus *Chimonobambusa* which ranges from India to Japan. This genus is one in that large class of bamboos that "run" underground, forming groves. Though not considered "invasive," in a small garden its spread should be checked with an underground barrier 1½ feet deep. This bamboo normally grows from 10-15 feet high with canes to 1 inch in diameter. The leaves are up to 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. A pot or small clump of this bamboo has a vertical effect as the branches are not wide-spreading.

The square bamboo is relatively hardy, withstanding temperatures as low as 15 degrees. It will tolerate shade to full sun. A rich, moist, well-drained soil is best. In pots or as a grove, it is a fine specimen plant; it may also serve as a screen or hedge.

Unlike the *Bambusa* discussed earlier, the square bamboo is best propagated from cuttings of the rhizomes. Unlike most running bamboos, this one commences growth in the fall. Consequently, sections of vigorous young rhizome 18-24 inches long should be dug in late summer or early fall and covered 4 to 5 inches deep in boxes or pots. It is essential that they not be allowed to dry out even slightly while they are being dug. New shoots should follow shortly, and later may be individually potted. As with all bamboos, it takes several years for a young plant to become established and to produce large canes again.

The *Bambusa* is located along the eastern shore of the LASCA Lagoon, southeast of the Hugo Reid Adobe. The square bamboo is growing in a large grove along with the golden bamboo *(Phyllostachys aurea)* and the cultivar Bory of the black bamboo *(P. nigra)* just east of the restrooms in the historical section.

Both species of bamboo are being propagated by the Arboretum for Baldwin Bonanza.

James Bauml is taxonomist and senior biologist at the Arboretum. (Photos by LuAnn Munns)

Angular culms circled by aerial roots at the joints set the square bamboo (Chimonobambusa quadrangularis) *apart from other bamboos.*

New Books in the Library

– Joan DeFato

The Facts on File Dictionary of Botany. Stephen Blackmore, Cons. Ed., Elizabeth Toothill, Gen. Ed. Facts on File, 1984. 391 pp. This dictionary, which is the same as The Penguin Dictionary of Botany, is noticeable for two aspects other than the anatomical and taxonomic botany definitions that one might expect. One is the amount of attention given to biochemical concepts. Definitions of chemical terms include the role of the chemical in physiological processes as well as the definition itself. Another concerns the useful diagrams such as the one of the classification of fruit types or the geological time scale with the indication of time of origin and abundance of plant groups. Biosynthetic pathways, DNA and types of life cycles are other examples of material that is easily found in the dictionary although not unique to it. Some families and higher levels of plants are defined, genera are not. Some species are defined in an appendix. One thing you will not find in this dictionary is a guide to pronunciation, an understandable decision when British and American pronunciations differ.

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A Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of South-East Australia, by Jean Galbraith. Sydney, Collins, 1977. Distr. in the U.S. by ISBS. As indicated by the endpaper map, this field guide covers an area from Brisbane to Adelaide as well as Tasmania. It is set up to be used in a number of ways. The family arrangement can be used by those who have an idea of the family their plant is in. The color photos are arranged by color. A very simple key on page 10 directs one to groups of pages, and a guide to the families indicates plant characteristics and habitats of those groups.

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The Book of Edible Nuts. Frederic Rosengarten, Jr. Walker and Co., New York, 1984. 384 pp. Rosengarten, who wrote the very fine *The Book of Spices*, has now written a book on edible nuts. More than half of the pages are given over to the 12 most consumed nuts in the U.S. with information ranging from history through cultivation and processing to tempting recipes. Thirty others are reviewed in two to seven pages. Among the ones of particular interest in our area are almonds, macadamias, jojoba and litchi. As the author points out, his concept of nuts for the book is the popular one, not the botanical one.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

NOVEMBER 4 — 2 p.m.
"Houseplants With Fabulous Foliage" — a lecture
Ruthe Betti

NOVEMBER 17, 18 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Santa Anita Bonsai Society

NOVEMBER 18 — 10 a.m.
"Discovering Bamboos" — a walking tour
John Catlin

DECEMBER 2 — 2 p.m.
"Exploring the Care of Christmas Trees" — a lecture
Wendy Sekovich

DECEMBER 15, 16 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Queen Anne Cottage
Open House

JANUARY 26, 27 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Baiko-en Kenkyukai Bonsai Society

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 20 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Art Gallery Show
Pasadena Society of Artists

NOVEMBER 3, 4 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Chrysanthemum Show
Glendale Chrysanthemum Society

NOVEMBER 10, 11—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Ikebana Show
International Ikebana Society

DECEMBER 1-9 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Christmas Show

DECEMBER 15, 16 — Saturday 1-5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Camellia Gib Show
Southern California Camellia Council

JANUARY 4-31 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Membership Art Show
Descanso Garden Guild members

JANUARY 12 — 1-4 p.m.
Rose Pruning Demonstration
Pacific Rose Society and
George Lewis

JANUARY 26, 27 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Camellia Show
Pacific Camellia Society

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

NOVEMBER 4 — 2 p.m.
"Introducing New Houseplants" — a lecture
Ruth Pease

NOVEMBER 10, 11 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Orchid Show
South Bay Orchid Society

NOVEMBER 17, 18 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Flower Show
Costa Verde District of Garden Clubs, Inc.

NOVEMBER 25 — 2 p.m.
"Grow and Bonsai Prize-Winning Mums" — a lecture
Lynn Bjorklund

DECEMBER 9 — 2 p.m.
Christmas Concert
Palos Verdes Symphonic Band